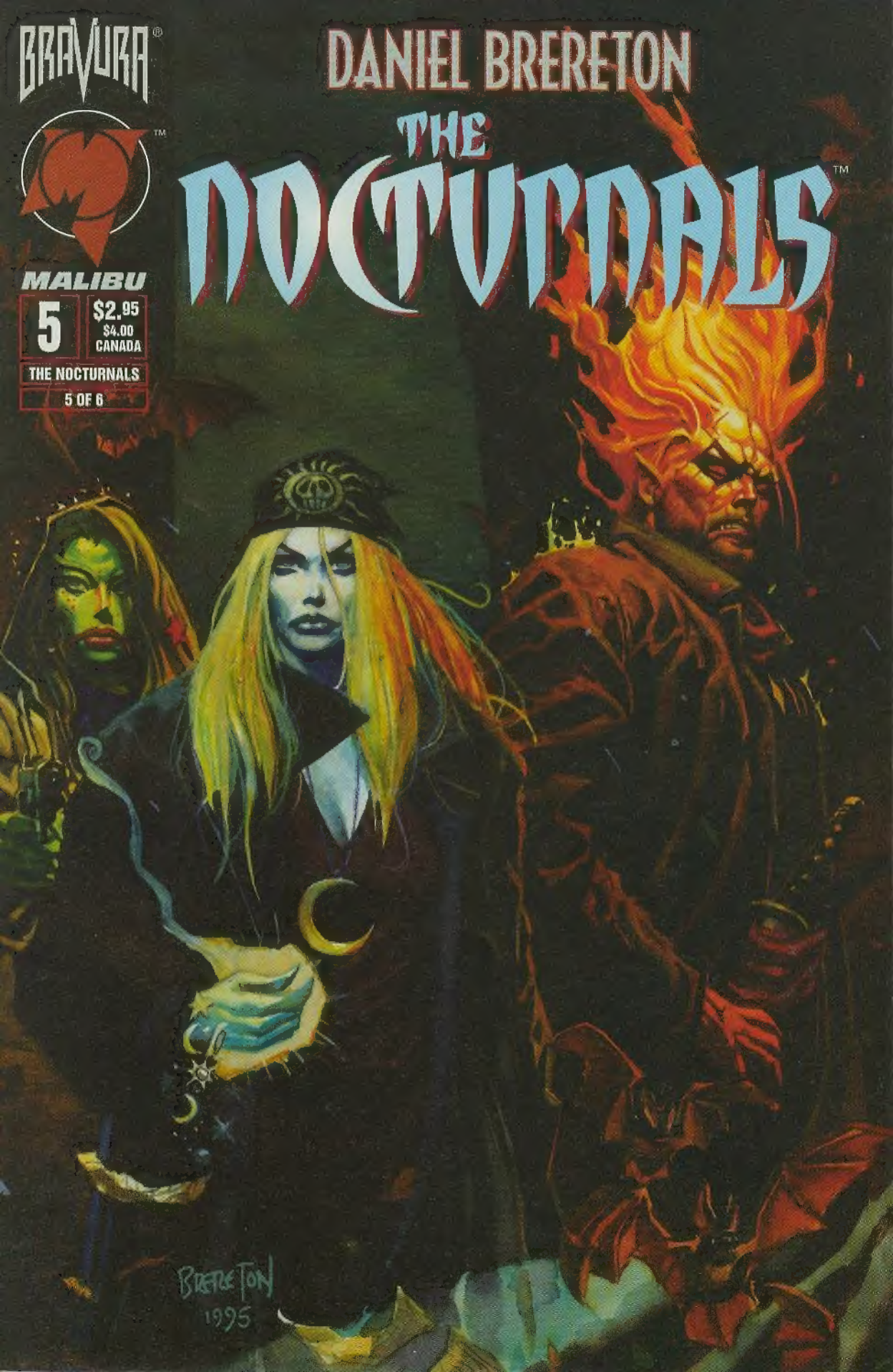
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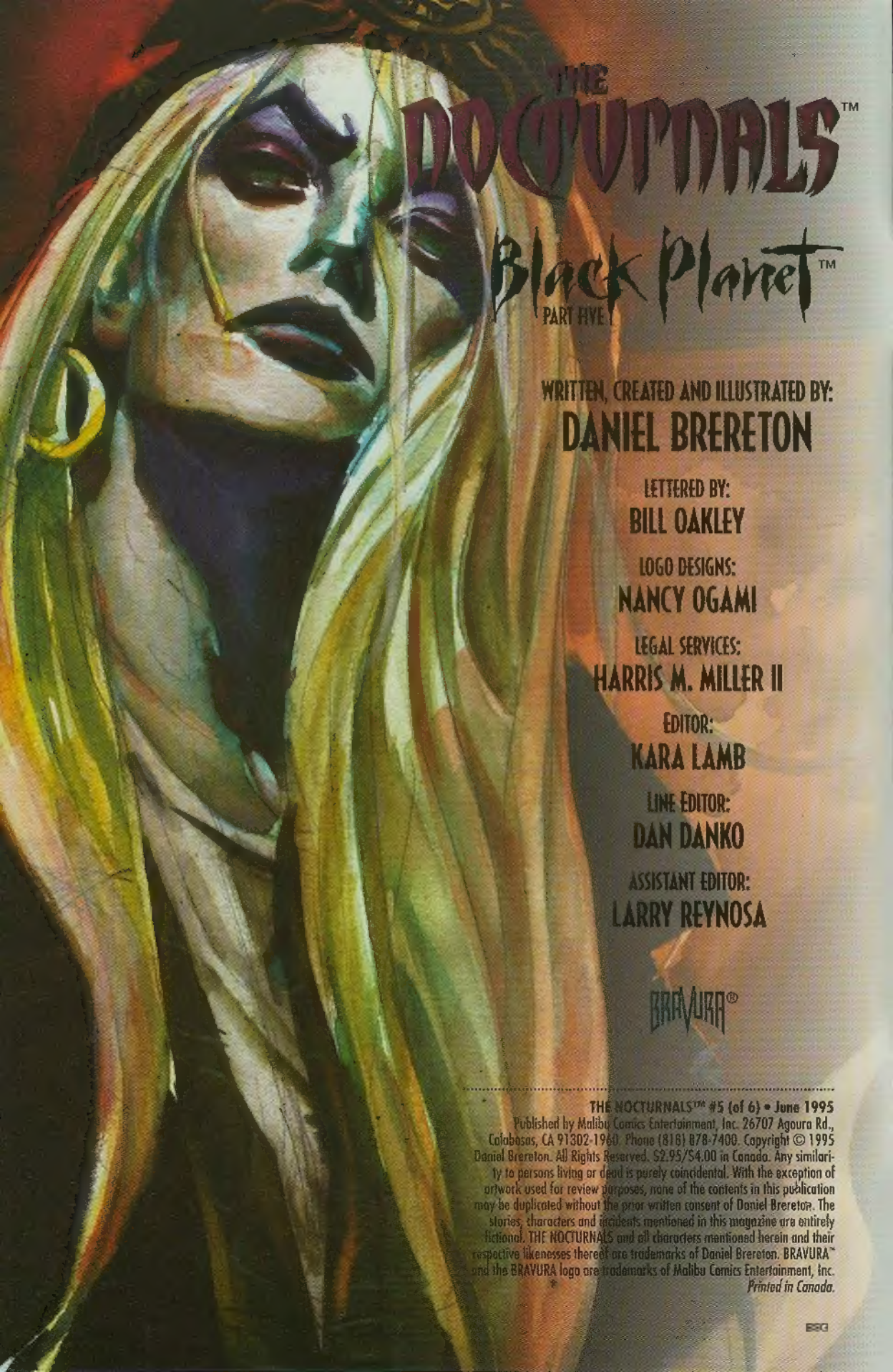

# THE NOCTURNALS™

## Black Planet™

PART FIVE

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BSG

I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN CARE OF YOU A LONG TIME AGO.
IT'S HIGH TIME I CORRECTED MY MISTAKE.
SHRED!
TRUP
BLAM BLAM BLAM
SLAMM
FREEZE, HORROR!
GET OUT OF SIGHT, GUNWITCH. I'LL HANDLE THIS.
POLICE! NOBODYMOVE!!
POLICE OFFICERS! DROPTHEGUNS! HANDSWHEREI-CANSEE'EM!!

HOLY HAM AND EGGS! WHAT KIND OF FUNHOUSE IS THIS?
JEFF, YOU SECURE THE LITTLE GIRL. I'LL DEAL WITH DRACULA HERE.
NONE OF THIS CONCERNS YOU. I HAVE THINGS UNDER CONTROL HERE.
EXCUSE ME, DOC...
...BUT YOU DON'T CONTROL JACK. NOW SLOWLY PUT THE AUTOMATIC DOWN, AND EAT SOME FLOOR.
NOW.
LOOK, YOU AREN'T THE ONLY ONES POINTING GUNS IN HERE... THERE'S A--
YOU WANNA GET SHOT, JACKASS?! DROP THE GUN!!
uhn...
STEADY, SWEETHEART, EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE O--

WHOOSH
--KKAAY?!
GOODIS!
...I BELIEVE I'LL SSTART WITH THE CON-SSTABLE...
KBLAM
SO MUCH FOR CALM REASON...
KLONK
UHGN

GUNWITCH, BRING THE OLD WOLF. WE'RE LEAVING.
OH, NO... MY HOUSE...
OPEN THE PASSAGE, EVE.
OKAY.
DID WE KILL ALL THE MONSTERS, DAD?
beep
WE SURE MADE A DENT, FRUIT BAT.
BUT I'M NOT SURE WE CAN KILL THEM...
beep beep
huh?
YOU BETTER NOT BE DEAD, PARTNER.
YOU DESERVE A GOOD ASS-KICKING FOR YOUR BRILLIANT STAKE-OUT IDEA...
...AND IT WON'T BE ANY FUN UNLESS YOU'RE STILL BREATHING.

GLADDEN'S PUB, ON ROUTE NINE.
I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE MY EYES.
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SAY THIS TO A SNAKE...
...BUT IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU OUT AGAIN, KING.
THANKS. SAME HERE, BANDIT.
HE TALKS FUNNY.
SO? YOU'RE UGLY, RICK. SEE HOW IT EVENS OUT?
THIS MAKES, WHAT? THE SECOND TIME YOU'VE ESCAPED THE MONSTER SHOP?
THIRRD.
THAT'S DAMN SLIPPERY WORK, KING.
THANKES, BANDIT.
FORGETABOUDDIT. I'M GONNA NEED A DEXTERIOUS FELLA LIKE YOU.
AS SOON AS I RECKON WITH MR. DOUBLECROSS ARTIST FANE, IT'S BACK TO THE RACKETS.

HEY BANDIT, I HEARD YOU SCREWED HORROR REAL GOOD!
I'D LOVE TO BE THERE WHEN THAT CREEP GOES DOWN. HIM AND HIS WHOLE FREAKING CREW ...YEAH, I'LL BET--
WHAT'S THAT, RUMMY?
KUDD
÷ughhk÷
W-WHAT'D YOU DO THAT FOR, GODDAMBIT?
IT FELT GOOD. I'LL DO IT AGAIN IF YOU DON'T KEEP IT ZIPPED.
Y'KNOW, KING, HIJACKING'S A BIG SMILE, SO'S RUNNING A CREW. AND YOU CAN SEE HOW MUCH GUIDANCE THESE YOUNGER ONES ARE NEEDIN'...
...BUT IMAGINE HOLDING THE REINS ON AN EVEN BIGGER HORSE. YOU STICK WITH ME AND IT'LL BE ALL GRAVY, MY COLD-BLOODED TONTO.
DON'T WORRRY, BANDIT. I'LL BE YOURR SSECOND SSKIN.

MEANWHILE, ACROSS TOWN...
JUST WHAT TYPE OF JUDO MOVE WOULD YOU SAY THAT LITTLE GIRL USED ON YOU, JEFF?
WELL? DAZZLE ME, PARTNER.
LOOK, GEORGE...
HOT DOGS
DIGGITY
NO TURN ON RED
NO, YOU LOOK, SONNY. I'VE INDULGED THIS CRAP LONG ENOUGH.
WE HAD A SOLID LEAD THERE, WE FOUND OUR MAN... AND HE GOT AWAY. NO AMOUNT OF JUSTIFYING OR IGNORING FACTS IS GOING TO CHANGE WHAT HAPPENED.
I WATCHED HORROR TAKE SLUGS LIKE THEY WERE BEE STINGS, WHILE A CHILD BOUNCED YOU ACROSS THE ROOM. NOT TO MENTION THAT GUY WITH THE CALI-MARI FOR A JAW WE LEFT LAYING THERE...
THIS NIGHT STAYS BETWEEN THE TWO OF US, PLAIN AND SIMPLE.
IS THAT SO?
YEAH, IT IS. NO SOONER WOULD WE REPORT OUR FLAKY STORY THAN WE'D BE TRADING OUR SHIELDS IN FOR A NICE RUBBER CELL, FILLED WITH PLUSH TOYS. SO GET IT THROUGH YOUR THICK CANDY SHELL, YOUNG BUCK, 'CUZ IT AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN.
I'M NOT SAYING I LIKE IT, BUT THAT'S WHERE IT IS.
MAN, I GOT A SPLITTIN' HEAD-ACHE.

YEAH, WELL, MINE FEELS REAL GROOVY, TOO... YOU FINISHED NOW?
HELL, NO. I SAID THIS WAS BETWEEN US. WE'RE STILL ON A MANHUNT. NOBODY GETS OVER ON ME LIKE THAT. WE'RE GONNA BAG THAT BASTARD...
EXCUSE ME... IT'S REALLY COLD AND WET OUT...
THAT'S WHY THE CITY PROVIDES SHELTERS, BUDDY. TRY THE ONE ON 47TH, BY THE OLD LIBRARY.

HERE, PAL GET YOURSELF A CHILI DOG
BLESS YOU SIR
DON'T DO THAT. YOU JUST STAKED THAT GUY'S NEXT SKIN POP
BRRR. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE HEAT N HERE?
DON'T LOOK NOW I THINK IT'S YOUR TURN
JESUS, IT'S LIKE N GHT OF THE L VING DEAD IN HERE
SORRY, DARLIN', NO CHANGE LEFT I GOT NOTHING
I DON'T NEED ANY CHANGE

I JUST WANTED TO SEE HOW YOU TAKE YOUR COFFEE
YOU CAN TELL A LOT ABOUT A MAN BY HOW HE TAKES HIS BROWN WATER
hmmm.. YOU LIKE IT BLACK
THEN BLACK IS HOW YOU'LL HAVE IT
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE N THE DARK ABOUT EVERYTH NG E_SE.
CRAZY FLIPPIN' BROAD
SHE SURE BROUGHT THE COLD IN HERE THOUGH, D:DN'T SHE?
..YEAH..

TAKE IT EASY, GEORGE. SHE'S JUST A VAG
LET'S GO BACK INSIDE I CAN SEE MY BREATH OUT HERE
YOU JUST KEEP THAT HOGLEG READY, JEFF, LIKE A GOOD PARTNER
MA'AM! WE'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU, SO HOLD UP PLEASE!
THE REST OF YOU CAN DISPERSE. POLICE BUSINESS HERE
THEY'RE NOT DISPERSING
AND THAT FELLA ON THE LEFT'S GIVIN' ME THE BEAR STARE.

I CAN SEE THAT
IT'S YOUR SHOW..
YOU DON'T NEED TO WAVE PIECE AT US.
..BUT F IT MAKES YOU FEEL MORE SECURE, GO AHEAD
..BUT I CAN TELL YOU RIGHT NOW -
LISTEN UP! I HAVE NO IDEA HOW THE THREE OF YOU FIT INTO TONIGHT'S SIDE-SHOW..
THAT'S ENOUGH OUT OF YOU, TRAMP!
NOW SHUT UP AND CATCH SOME RAINDROPS. GO ON, GET 'EM UP.
NOW, DAMMIT!
FWOOMP!

SORRY, POLYCHROME TRIED IT YOUR WAY...
BUT LIKE I TOLD DOC THEY WON'T LISTEN
THEY'RE COPS, JUST DOING THEIR JOB--THEY DON'T KNOW ANY BETTER
SO WE'LL BE GENTLE
THAT'S ENOUGH NOW! DOUSE THAT FIRE!

LOOKS LIKE WE GOT OURSELVES ANOTHER SITUATION, PARTNER
NGHH
GODDMM BSTARD, COOKED MY GUN, !
LET'S NOT GET ALL HARD ON EACH OTHER, OKAY? LET'S ALL BE PALS.
I TAKE IT YOU RE PART OF HORROR'S CREW
WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST CLUE, HANDSOME?
THE CHICK WHO HAUNTED YOUR COFFEE CUP OR THE B G DUDE WHO MELTED YOUR PAL'S BERETTA?
MAYBE IT WAS THE TWO-GUN FROG GIRL
LET ME TAKE A LOOK AT DETECTIVE WILEFORD'S HAND, JEFF
SINCE WHEN ARE WE ON A FIRST-NAME BASIS?

A GHOST IS ON A FIRST-NAME BASIS WITH ANYONE SHE CHOOSES, HANDSOME
AW, C'MON A GHOST?
A WRAITH, ACTUALLY
BUT I QUIT THAT GIG.
HOW'S YOUR HAND FEEL, DETECTIVE?
uh. MUCH BETTER...
.. damndest thing.
NOBODY'S GONNA BELIEVE A WORD OF THIS, GEORGE
SOME THINGS ARE BETTER LEFT IN THE DARK, DETECTIVE
I HOPE WE'VE MADE OUR POINT.

SORRY 'BOUT YOUR FIN, POSEY
I'LL HAVE IT FIXED IN A JIFFY
YOU'RE A WONDERFUL NURSE, EVE
SOME OF MY TOYS GOT PLAYED WITH KINDA ROUGH
I WAS VERY PROUD OF YOU. YOU'RE ONE TOUGH COOKIE, YOU KNOW THAT?
YEAH
HOWEVER FROM NOW ON, I THINK YOU'LL BE BETTER OFF STAYING HOME ON SUCH NIGHTS
BUT WHY, DAD?
WHY?
BECAUSE I LOVE YOU, FRUIT-BAT

"NOW GET SOME REST"
RATS
I'M NOT AFRAID OF ANY MONSTERS I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF
IT'S JUST 'CUZ I'M SMALL
PUL
I'LL SHOW DAD
I M NOT AFRAID OF MONSTERS

SOMETIME LATER
STAY CLOSE, EVE THIS PLACE IS DANGEROUS
ARE YOU SURE YOUR DAD WANTED US TO GO INTO THESE TUNNELS ALONE?
HE SAID WE'RE SUPPOSED TO FIND A SAFE WAY INTO THE MONSTER SHOP, SO WE CAN HELP YOUR OTHER FRIENDS GET FREE, TOO
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT WAY?
GOTTA LEVEL W TH YOU EVE.
DESPITE THE FACT THAT I NO LONGER POSSESS A PAIR OF THEM
. . RIGHT NOW, I'M DEFINITELY WINGING IT
WE CAN ALWAYS USE THE PASSAGE TO GO BACK HOME IF WE GET LOST OR SOMETHING

LOOK HERE! THIS DRAIN LEADS RIGHT INTO THE MONSTER SHOP DUNGEONS
DUNGEONS? OOH, COOL!
UM, IT'S KIND OF DIRTY IN THERE ARE YOU SURE?
I'M NOT SURE OF ANYTHING RIGHT NOW, INCLUDING WHETHER OR NOT THIS WHOLE THING IS A MISTAKE
WELL, YOU GO FIRST
OF COURSE I HAVE THE FLASHLIGHT
FREEZE! STAY WHERE YOU ARE!

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE TOMB...
NOT TO WORRY ON OUR TWO CHARMING DETECTIVES.
THE "BURN AND HEAL" ROUTINE WAS EFFECTIVE?
DEFINITELY SPOOKED INTO SUBMISSION, I'D SAY.
GOOD. HOW IS DON LUPO?
SLEEPING LIKE A BABE.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHERE HAS THE LITTLE ONE GOTTEN TO?
I'D SAY SHE'S IN BED, READING COMICS BY FLASHLIGHT BY NOW.
WAIT A MINUTE... YOU'RE ASKING ME?
SHE'S NOT IN HER ROOM. I DON'T FEEL HER ANYWHERE ABOUT. I THOUGHT PERHAPS...
SHE'S NOT IN THE TOMB?

REMAIN WHERE YOU ARE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I ACTUALLY LISTENED TO YOU, EVENING.
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I'M THINKING NOW...
WE'RE IN IT UP TO OUR NECKS. I THINK NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT IN YOUR BAG OF TRICKS.
IT'S OKAY! THE TOYS ARE WITH US, AND THEY WON'T LET ANYBODY HURT US!
THEY'RE LIKE THE BAT-SHIELD ON TV. BULLETS JUST FLY OFF 'EM!
DO NOT MOVE!! HANDS IN THE AIR NOW!
THAT'S VERY COMFORTING.
WHAT'S A BATSHIELD?

HE'S BIG.
THEN USE THE WHOLE CLIP.
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
KOMODO! KOMODO!
HSSSSSS!
TRANQ DARTS!
PHUT!
PHUT!
PHUT!
PHUT!
PHUT!
EVE... YOU'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE...
DON'T WORRY, KOMODO! MY DOLLS WILL HELP US!
G-GO... RUN... UHGHHHH!

I'M CHECKING THE PASSAGE MONITOR... IF SHE'S USED IT, I CAN FIND OUT...
YOU KNOW, I DON'T SENSE KOMODO EITHER.
THAT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE TOGETHER... LOOK.
OH, NO.
THAT HEAT PATTERN THERE... OH, THE LITTLE FOOLS.
THEY'RE UNDER THE MONSTER SHOP.
NO GHOSTS, DOC. NO GHOSTS ALLOWED.
THAT'S RIGHT, POLY. NOTHING OF AN ECTOPLASMIC NATURE CAN FUNCTION IN THAT AREA...
WE FOUND OUT THE HARD WAY WITH YOU, THAT TIME LAST YEAR...
I NEARLY DISSIPATED.
EVE'S HELPLESS.
CONTINUED!